



Date | time Monday – August 24, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.

Location Administration Office (by invitation only)

Remote for all others

As permitted by Governor Whitmer’s Executive Orders 2020-129 and 2020-160 and to allow for safe distancing, physical attendance is by invitation only. In order to preserve the public’s right to address the Board of Education or observe the meeting, remote access options described below were posted.

TO OBSERVE THE MEETING VIA LIVESTREAM:

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/beyondtherock/live>

TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

No later than 3:30 the day of the meeting, please contact the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant at mclark@rockfordschools.org to request access and register to speak.

Questions or need technical assistance?

Please contact Director of Technology Bob Stull at rstull@rockfordschools.org

Meeting called to order with a moment of silence by President Postema

In Attendance

Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoffrey L. Downs, Laura L. Featherston, Timothy J. Lewis, Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach. Regrets: Lisa M. Kreager.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibley, Mike Cuneo, Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer).

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Timothy Lewis, supported by Laura Featherston, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition

MASB Board Awards

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education President Miles Postema reported on the following awards received from the Michigan Association of School Boards:

- Trustees Bobbie Jo Blanton and Geoffrey Downs:
Achieved Level 2 Award of Merit for completing Level 1 plus 45 education credits
- Trustee Laura Featherston:
Achieved Level 4 Master Boardmember Award for completing Levels 1, 2 and 3 plus total of nine advanced (200- or 300-Level) CBA classes and minimum of 368 education credits
- Trustee Nick Reichenbach:
Achieved Level 4 Master Boardmember Award for completing Levels 1, 2 and 3 plus total of nine advanced (200- or 300-Level) CBA classes and minimum of 368 education credits

Achieved Master Diamond Award for completing Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4; total of 14 advanced (200- or 300-Level) classes and minimum of 528 education credits

Achieved the Advocacy Skills Specialty Certificate for completing requirements for Level 1 and completion of the following CBA classes: CBA 246: Advanced Community Relations; CBA 252: Media Relations; CBA 260: Public Speaking; CBA 261: Advocacy for Public Education (new requirement); and CBA 262: Spokesperson Training; and completion of one of the following classes: CBA 232: Risk Communication; CBA 263: Focusing on Feedback; or CBA 264: Shaping Public Opinion

Achieved the Data Specialty Certificate for completing requirements for Level 1 with a recommendation of completing CBA 109 - Board Governance for Data-Informed Decisionmaking and completion of the following classes: CBA 251: District Strategic Planning and Goal Setting; CBA 341: Data First: Foundations 1; CBA 342: Data First Foundations 2; CBA 343: Data First: Teacher Quality; CBA 344: Data First: High School and Beyond; CBA 345: Data Dashboards for Board Members

- Board of Education:
Trustees Blanton's and Downs' certifications qualify the RPS Board of Education to achieve Honor Board status

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Dana Brouse.

Call of the Audience

Bob Zabavski (7383 Orlin Court NE, Rockford) addressed the Board of Education about the re-entry to school.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Geoff Downs, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of August 10, 2020 Study and Closed Sessions; Regular Meeting #2
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$2,084,084.49
Certified Staff Resignations. Accept resignations of Joseph Kessel, Malachi Pratt, Ashley Scorzo (effective immediately)
- 2020-21 Revised High School Extra-Duty Fall Coaching Recommendation.
Boys Soccer: Don Hamilton (Freshman Coach)

Reports

Update on Return to Learn Plan

Today was the first day of school for the 2020-21 school year. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm facilitated a report updating the Board of Education on the key areas of the district's Return to Learn Plan.

Instruction. Students enrolled in face-to-face instruction are learning remotely for the first three weeks and will report to their classrooms in person starting Monday, September 14. It is Dr. Shibler's intent that

in-person instruction will continue as long as Michigan remains in Phase 4 or above. Mr. Ramm reviewed professional development provided to staff to prepare them for a remote teaching environment. He also reviewed the remote learning schedules for students. Overall, the first day went well and the district will continue to support families to meet the needs of the students.

Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs will serve as the district's Elementary Rockford Virtual Director, and Jennifer Thompson will serve as the Secondary Rockford Virtual Director. Ms. Jacobs reported that the number of students enrolled in Rockford Virtual has increased significantly over the past couple of weeks from three percent to just over ten percent of total student population. RV students will receive instruction through a partner curriculum with support from a Rockford teacher (teacher/student ratios described later). Orientation, including livestreams on Tuesday, August 25, will be held this week with students beginning classes on Monday, August 31. Parents are asked to commit to at least one trimester of virtual instruction, which will allow the district time to redistribute staff if necessary between trimesters.

Human Resources. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford reviewed staffing assignments to support students enrolled in Rockford Virtual. One full-time teacher will support developmental kindergarten students; two full-time teachers per grade level will support grades K-4; one full-time and one part-time teacher per grade level are provided for 5th grade; one full-time per grade level in grades 6-12; and content-specific certified teachers for secondary English, Math, Social Studies, and Science, for a total of 19.5 FTE teachers as of today. These numbers will fluctuate based on student caseload. Ms. Wilson-Crawford reported that 28 new certified staff have been hired for the 2020-21 school year, with most replacing staff who have retired. Despite perception, the number of retirees this year was low to average, with some being later than normal due to COVID.

Special Services. Executive Director of Special Services Mindy Duba reported approximately six percent of special needs students have enrolled in Rockford Virtual. In addition to their IEP, all special needs virtual students will be supported through a contingency learning plan individually created for each student. The CLP will outline the provision of additional special education services such as school social work, speech and language, and other ancillary services. These students will continue to be serviced by RPS teachers and itinerant staff in collaboration with the RPS virtual staff.

Operations. Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reported on district preparations for busing, food service, technology, and maintenance. Seating on buses is limited and assigned, and students may have one pick-up/drop-off location for contact tracing purposes. Students will eat meals in their classrooms to minimize large group gatherings. Buildings will be regularly sanitized, and all classrooms equipped with PPE (personal protective equipment) and a sanitation toolkit which will be replenished regularly. Technical support is available to all families via studenthelp@rockfordschools.org, which can be found on the district's Return to Learn and Rockford Virtual webpages. Families may contact their child's school if they have questions or central office if they are unable to receive assistance from their school.

Dr. Shibler summarized by stating that administration has been continually working on plans to deliver education since the Governor closed schools last March. Due to the changing landscape over the past months, the unknowns of the future, and conflicting opinions on the appropriate response to the pandemic, he vows to make decisions based on information he believes to be in the best interest of students and staff. The Administration will provide monthly reports to the Board of Education as the school year progresses.

2020-21 Board of Education Committee and Liaison Appointments

President Postema presented the following committee and liaison appointments for the 2020-21 school year. A committee meeting schedule will be provided to the Board of Education once it is established.

Committees

Building & Site: Chair Laura Featherston, Geoff Downs, Tim Lewis
Curriculum: Chair Geoff Downs, Laura Featherston, Nick Reichenbach
Finance: Chair Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoff Downs, Tim Lewis
Government & Community Relations: Chair Miles Postema, Laura Featherston, Lisa Kreager
Human Resources: Chair Tim Lewis, Bobbi Jo Blanton, Lisa Kreager
Policy Review: Chair Nick Reichenbach, Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoff Downs

Liaisons

Deb Chamberlin Scholarship Committee: Tim Lewis
Diversity Committee: Geoff Downs
Kent Intermediate Association of School Boards: Laura Featherston
Kent Intermediate School District Legislative & Grassroots: Tim Lewis and Nick Reichenbach
Michigan Association of School Boards Legislative Relations Network: Nick Reichenbach
Rockford Area Community Endowment: Tim Lewis (Year two of two-year appointment)
Rockford Education Foundation: Bobbi Jo Blanton (Year two of two-year appointment)

Old Business

None.

New Business

Certified Staff Recommendations

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Laura Featherston, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to employ the following certified staff for the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Following approval, the new employees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity.

Kristin Baker	Science	Rockford High School
Kailie Burk	Social Studies	Rockford High School
Rebecca Cronin	ELA	North Rockford Middle
Benjamin Fredrickson	Biology	Rockford High School
Macey Hodge	English	Rockford High School
Lesley Lobdell	2 nd Grade	Belmont Elementary
Reva McDowell	Mathematics	Rockford High School
Lindsay Merrill	Social Studies	North Rockford Middle School
Rachel Sonnenberg	English	Rockford High School
Catherine Spalding	Physical Education	Belmont/Valley View Elementaries
Connor Thompson	Social Studies	North Rockford Middle

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at September 14, 2020 meeting